

We claim:

1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising
an amount of a non-binding FK506 analog that is effective in
stimulating nerve cell growth in a patient;
5 and a pharmaceutically suitable excipient.
2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition further
comprises a neurotrophic factor other than the non-binding FK506 analog.
- 10 3. The composition of claim 2 wherein the neurotrophic factor is
selected from the group consisting of NGF, IGF-1, aFGF, bFGF, PDGF, BDNF,
CNTF, GDNF, NT-3, NT 4/5, and mixtures thereof.
- 15 4. A method of stimulating nerve cell growth comprising
administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising administering to a patient
an amount of a non-binding FK506 analog that is effective to stimulate nerve cell
growth.
- 20 5. A method for stimulating neurite outgrowth comprising
contacting a nerve cell with a composition comprising a neurotrophic amount of a
non-binding FK506 compound.
- 25 6. A method of identifying a non-binding FK506 analog that
stimulates nerve cell growth, the method comprising:
screening a plurality of FK506 analogs for binding to FKBP-12,
selecting a FK506 analog that does not bind FKBP-12, and
assaying the FK506 analog that does not bind FKBP-12 for activity
in promoting nerve cell growth.

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